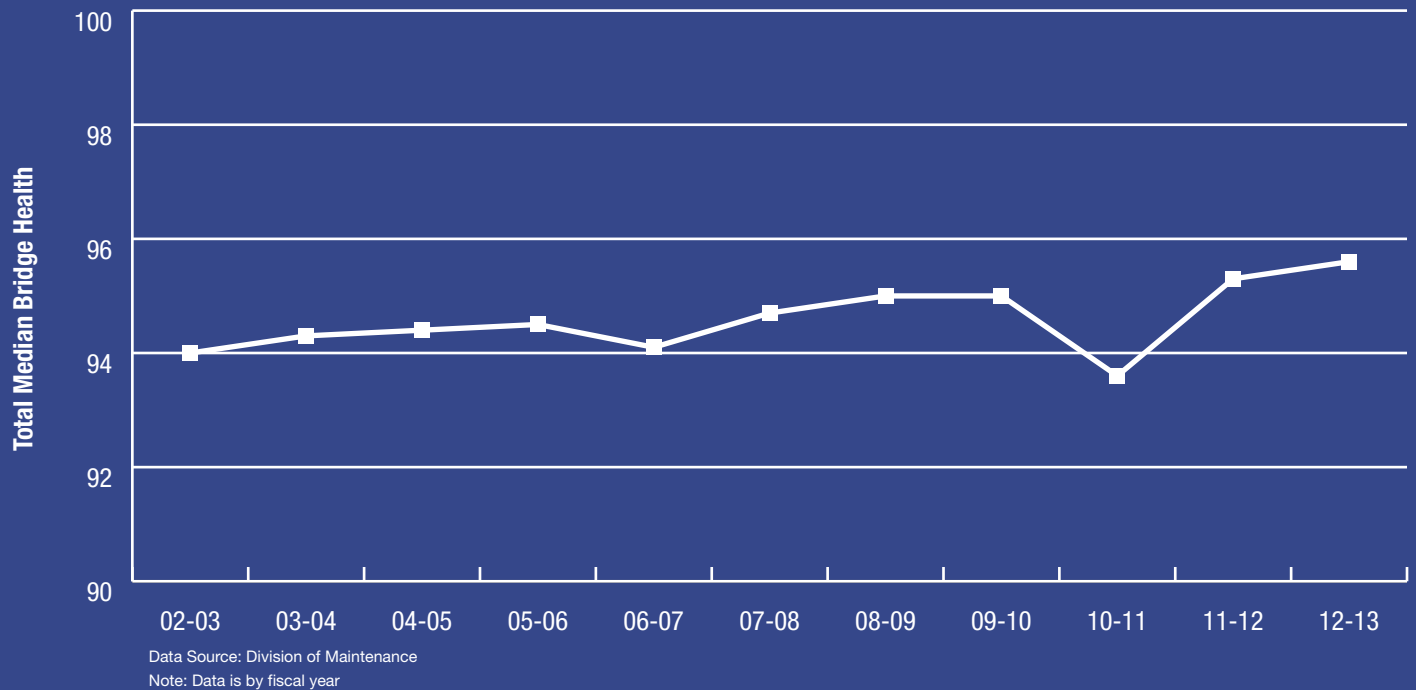
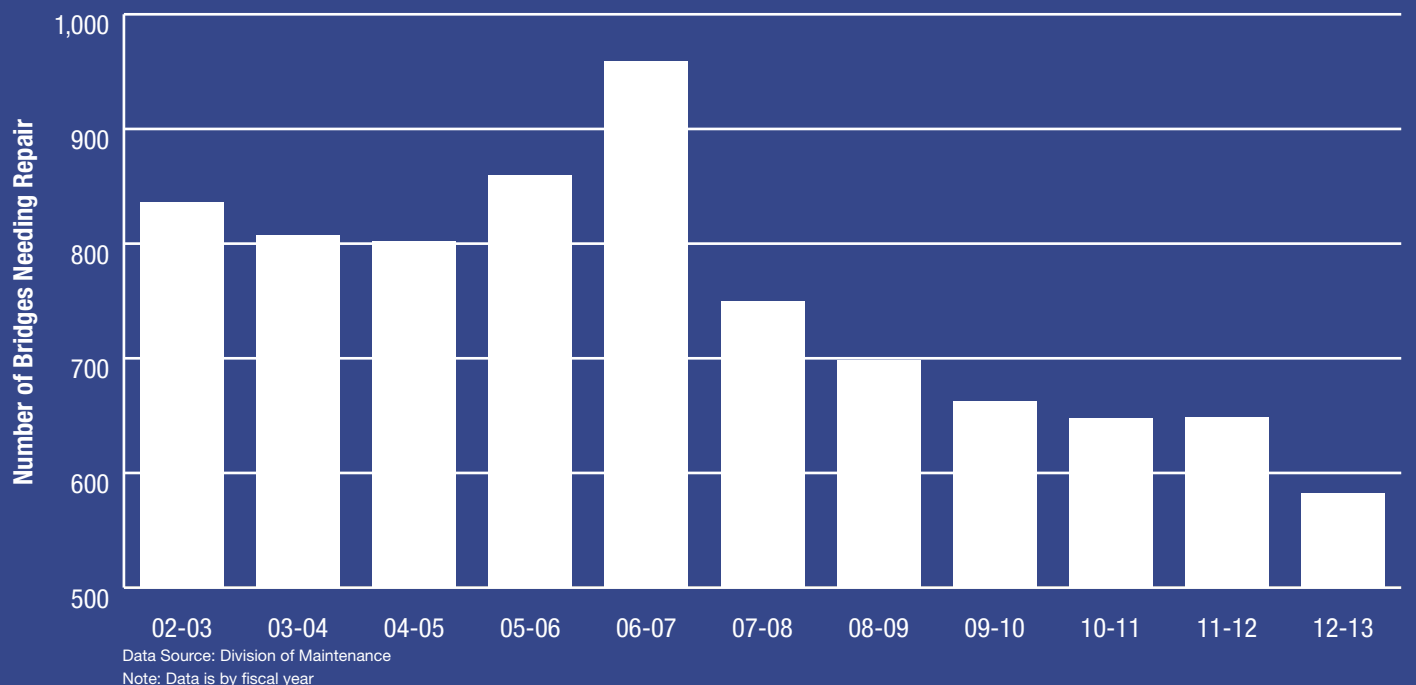


Structural Checkup: Bridge Health Increased

Bridge Health Index
(Total median bridge health)



Number of Bridges Needing Repair
(Caltrans is responsible for more than 13,000 state-owned bridges)



Caltrans *regularly inspects* more than 13,000 state-owned bridges to ensure they are safe for the traveling public. If inspectors find any issue that could compromise the bridge's structural integrity, they do whatever it takes to protect public safety, including closing the bridge or posting weight limitations until it's repaired.

Caltrans spends about \$450 million annually on bridge maintenance, preservation, and inspection. District bridge crews usually handle small repairs, and contractors perform more extensive repairs.

The most recent data on bridge health shows that investment in inspection, repair, and retrofit has improved the health of California's bridges. Of the more than 13,000 bridges Caltrans inspects, the number of bridges that need repair has declined from 750 in fiscal year 2007–08 to 582 in fiscal year 2012–13.

A healthy bridge may have cracks and some corrosion, which are not unusual and don't affect the integrity of the structure.

Caltrans also measures the overall condition of the state bridge network through the Bridge Health Index (BHI). The BHI is a number from 0 to 100, with 100 being the best.

During the 2012–13 fiscal year, the average BHI of the state-owned bridge inventory was 95.6. The health index showed a significant improvement as a result of Caltrans' aggressive effort to address bridge issues with lower-cost preservation to slow deterioration that would require major rehabilitation or replacement.



Southern California's San Diego-Coronado Bridge, with its distinctive curve and soaring sweep, is 2.12-miles long and has a vertical clearance of approximately 200 feet so the tallest ships can pass beneath it.



Monterey County's Bixby Creek Bridge is one of the country's highest single-span, concrete-arch bridges. With a view of the Pacific Ocean, it crosses 260 feet above the Bixby Creek and Canyon and has an arch span of 330 feet.



The Tower Bridge, in Sacramento, was opened in 1935 and was the first vertical-lift bridge on the state highway system.